

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 /036 W
-----042713 111103Z /10

P 111056Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5703

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, SP

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - PAN AM STANDBY FARE

REF: STATE 187365

1. ECONCOUN AND EMBOFF DISCUSSED SUBJECT WITH CIVIL AVIATION OFFICIALS ON JULY 31. COLONEL GARCIA BENITO, CHIEF OF COMMERCIAL AVIATION SECTION, SAID HE HAD JUST DISCUSSED ISSUE WITH IBERIA AIRLINES AND HE WAS CERTAIN THAT IBERIA WOULD CONTINUE TO BE OPPOSED TO STANDBY FARES. GARCIA BENITO EXPLAINED IBERIA'S CONCERN THAT, WITH PAN AM FLIGHT SCHEDULED TO DEPART MADRID SHORT TIME BEFORE IBERIA FLIGHT, MANY PASSENGERS WOULD RESERVE ON IBERIA AND THEN TRY FOR STANDBY ON PAN AM. THIS WOULD PLACE IBERIA IN DANGER OF FACING CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF NO-SHOWS.

2. FURTHER DISCUSSIONS THIS WEEK WITH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIALS DEALING WITH CIVIL AVIATION HAVE FAILED TO ALTER GOS POSITION. IN FACT EMBASSY WAS INFORMED AUGUST 10 THAT GOS PLANS TO SEND FOLLOW-UP NOTE THROUGH SPANISH EMBASSY WASHINGTON INVOKING PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 10(E) OF THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT. SPANISH BELIEVE THAT SIXTY DAY PERIOD PROVIDED IN
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ARTICLE 10(G)(2) SHOULD RUN FROM JULY 9, DATE OF FIRST NOTIFICATION OF DISSATISFACTION. IN RESPONSE TO SPANISH INQUIRY EMBOFF DECLINED TO GIVE OPINION AS TO WHETHER USG WOULD AGREE WITH THIS INTERPRETATION OF AGREEMENT.

3. PAN AM MARKETING MANAGER FRANK DE LA CRUZ TOLD EMBOFF AUGUST 11 THAT ONLY ONE STANDBY TICKET HAS BEEN SOLD IN

MADRID, ALTHOUGH SEVERAL INQUIRIES HAVE BEEN RECEIVED. PAN AM HERE HAS NOT PUBLICIZED THE STANDBY FARE TO ANY EXTENT SINCE THEY ARE AWARE OF THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT'S NEGATIVE VIEWS AND DO NOT WISH TO DISTURB GOOD RELATIONS WITH CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES. PAN AM IS PREPARED, HOWEVER, TO SELL STANDBY TICKETS TO ANYONE REQUESTING SAME. IN VIEW OF FACT THAN PAN AM, AS WELL AS TWA AND IBERIA, HAVE ALL BEEN FORCED TO LEAVE BEHIND PASSENGERS ON REGULAR FARES ON RECENT FLIGHTS WE DOUBT THAT MANY STANDBY TICKETS WILL BE SOLD IN ANY CASE DURING THIS PERIOD.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED OF USG VIEWS ON SPANISH INTERPRETATION OF BILATERAL AGREEMENT PER PARA. 2, AS WELL AS FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN CASE. TODMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, AIR FARES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MADRID09260
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780328-0874
Format: TEL
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780874/aaaacjxx.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6bd5f264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 187365
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1769512
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR - PAN AM STANDBY FARE
TAGS: EAIR, SP, US, PANAM
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6bd5f264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014